In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application. Currently amended claims are shown with additions underlined and deletions in ~~strikethrough text~~. Claims 5, 6, 9-16, 21 and 23 have been previously cancelled. Please add new claim 32. No new matter has been added.

1. (Currently Amended) A stent for use within a body lumen of a patient, comprising:

(a) a unitarily formed coil segment defining a lumen therethrough and including a distal portion, a middle portion, and a proximal portion, the coil segment comprising a wound element including a plurality of windings spaced from each other along at least a portion of the length of the coil segment, the spaced windings being separated by a distance of at least about 0.5 millimeters, the coil segment being extendable lengthwise from a first length to an extended length by winding the wound element and being compressible lengthwise from the extended length by releasing the wound element, at least one of the distal portion and the proximal portion including ~~at least one~~ a hook to permit connection to a delivery system, the coil segment being reducible in width at least to an extent needed to pass the stent into the body lumen of the patient by winding the distal portion or the proximal portion about a longitudinal axis, each of a distal end of the distal portion and a proximal end of the proximal portions including a diameter greater than a diameter of the middle portion when the stent is positioned coaxially within the body lumen of the patient; and

(b) a flexible polymer material encapsulating the coil segment and disposed between the spaced windings of the wound element to form an imperforate flexible webbing between the windings that inhibits ingrowth of body tissue between the windings when the stent is placed within the body lumen of the patient while also maintaining the lumen of the coil segment open, the imperforate flexible webbing comprising an outer layer and an inner layer, the outer and inner layers adhered together

to encapsulate the coil segment, the imperforate flexible webbing being sufficiently pliable to twist along with the coil segment without tearing.

2. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein the wound element comprises a wire of a biocompatible material.

3. (Original) The stent according to claim 2 wherein the biocompatible material is selected from the group consisting of stainless steel, titanium, a nickel-titanium alloy, or a polymer.

4. (Original) The stent of claim 2 wherein a cross-sectional area of the wire is in the range of from about 7.9×10^{-3} millimeters^2 to about 7.1 millimeters^2.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein the flexible polymer material comprises a low durometer silicone.

8. (Original) The stent of claim 7 wherein the low durometer silicone has a Shore A hardness in the range of from about 0 durometers to about 60 durometers.

9.-16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1 wherein the spaced windings of the coil segment are separated by a distance of at least about 0.5 millimeters at the distal portion of the coil segment.

18. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 17 wherein the spaced windings of the coil segment are separated by a distance of at least about 0.5 millimeters at the middle portion and the proximal portion of the coil segment.

19. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1 wherein the spaced windings of the coil segment are separated by a distance of at least about 0.5 millimeters when the stent is positioned within the urethra of a patient.

20. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1 wherein the coil segment provides sufficient radial strength to maintain an open passageway through a patient's prostatic urethra.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1 wherein the stent is configured to extend from near the opening of a patient's bladder, through the patient's prostatic urethra and terminate before the patient's external sphincter.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A stent for use within a body lumen of a patient, comprising:

(a) a unitarily formed coil segment defining a lumen therethrough and including a distal portion, a middle portion, and a proximal portion, the coil segment comprising a wound element including a plurality of windings spaced from each other along at least a portion of the length of the coil segment and being reducible in width at least to an extent needed to pass the stent into the body lumen of the patient by winding the wound element, the coil segment being extendible lengthwise from a first length to an extended length as the width of the coil segment is reduced by winding the wound element, each of a distal end of the distal portion and a proximal end of the proximal portions including a diameter greater than a diameter of the middle portion when the stent is positioned and left within the body lumen of the patient; and

(b) a flexible polymer material encapsulating at least a portion of the coil segment and disposed between the spaced windings of the wound element to form an imperforate flexible webbing between the windings that inhibits ingrowth of body tissue between the windings when the stent is placed within the body lumen of the patient while also maintaining the lumen of the coil segment open.

25. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 24 wherein the wound element comprises a wire of a biocompatible material.

26. (Previously Presented) The stent according to claim 25 wherein the biocompatible material is selected from the group consisting of stainless steel, titanium, a nickel-titanium alloy, or a polymer.

27. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 25 wherein a cross-sectional area of the wire is in the range of from about 7.9×10^{-3} millimeters^2 to about 7.1 millimeters^2.

28. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 24 wherein the spaced windings are

separated by a distance in the range of from about 0.5 millimeters to about 10 millimeters.

29. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim 24 wherein ~~each of~~ the distal portion includes a hook extending lengthwise from the distal portion to permit connection to a delivery system, the ~~and~~ proximal portions includes ~~one or more~~ a hooks ~~s~~ extending lengthwise from the proximal portion to permit connection to ~~a~~ the delivery system.

30. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 24 wherein the flexible polymer material comprises a low durometer silicone.

31. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 30 wherein the low durometer silicone has a Shore A hardness in the range of from about 0 durometers to about 60 durometers.

32. (New) The stent of claim 1, wherein the hook is a hook of the distal portion and extends lengthwise from the distal portion, the proximal portion including a hook that extends lengthwise from the proximal portion.